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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee
24th meeting

Strasbourg, 29 November-3 December 2004

Document for information

**Update report on marine turtle conservation
in Zakynthos (Laganas Bay), Greece**

Report by the NGO

Document prepared by
MEDASSET (The Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles),
Marine Turtle Conservation in the Mediterranean

Report to the 24th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)

Prepared by

MEDASSET

The Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles

September 2004

INTRODUCTION

- In 1985, the founder of MEDASSET (The Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles) commenced drawing the attention of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention to the plight of the sea turtles on their significant nesting beaches in Zakynthos. The initiative was taken over and carried on after 1988 by the newly formed MEDASSET, with yearly reports and recommendations, exerting pressure for change regarding the Zakynthos turtle nesting areas in Laganas Bay.
- In 1994, MEDASSET made a formal complaint to the European Union; case No. 4/4667SG(94)A/15702 against the Greek Government for its failure to apply National and International Law and Bern Convention Recommendations, concerning the preservation of sea turtles on Zakynthos. In particular the Council Directive 92/43/EEC 21st May 1992, on the Conservation of European Wildlife & Natural Habitats of which the European Community is a party. We have renewed the complaint each year.
- The annual complaints to the EC finally proved effective in 1998. The complaint to the EC had been put in abeyance in 1997. Then MEDASSET appealed to the EC Ombudsman, this eventually led to an “on the spot appraisal” by the DG XI, whose representative at the 18th Bern Meeting in 1998 announced the commencement of infringement procedures against Greece.
- Year 2000 was the first time in 14 years; Laganas Bay was not discussed at Strasbourg. The Case File was closed at the 22nd Bern Convention Meeting in 1999 subsequent to the EC initiative to take the Greek Government to the European Court of Justice for non-implementation of conservation legislation and EC Environmental Directives in Laganas Bay. The Presidential Decree providing the constitution for the Zakynthos National Marine Park (ZNMP) in Laganas Bay was signed immediately after the EC announced its action in December 1999 during the Convention Meeting.
- In this ground-breaking move by the EC, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) considered the Case on 12th July 2001. This was the first time that such action had been undertaken by the EC on behalf of the endangered sea turtles, and a significant step forward.
- The Court came to its decision after taking into consideration a report presented by the Greek Government, which stated, that they simply did not have enough time to fully implement their commitment. The Court also took under consideration reports from involved NGOs, like MEDASSET, ARCHELON and WWF Greece.
- Greece was asked to prove its concern for the protection of the sea turtles by deeds, through the implementation of the EC Environmental Directive and its own Presidential Decree.
- On the 31st of January 2002, the ECJ delivered its judgment, declaring that Greece had failed to fulfill its obligations under Article 12(1)(b) and (d) of Directive 92/43/EEC. The Court stipulated that by not implementing the required measures, the Hellenic Republic had failed to fulfill its

obligations under Article 12 of the Directive, and was therefore ordered to take the necessary measures to comply with the judgment and to pay the court costs.

- After the ECJ judgement against Greece on 30th January 2002, and an on the spot inspection in August 2002, the EC announced they were not satisfied with progress, and issued further warning to the Greek government that unless progress was made in summer 2003 the Commission would revert to the ECJ asking for punitive financial penalties to be imposed.
- An all Greek Commission Delegation visited Laganas in September 2003 finding that “substantial progress had been made towards effective implementation of a system of strict protection for the sea turtles”. MEDASSET’s request for access to the Commission Report prepared following the Greek Official’s visit in September 2003 was refused. Findings of this report were the total opposite to the facts in Zakynthos and to MEDASSET’s September 2003 report made available to the EC DG Environment and to the Bern Convention.
- A European Parliament Petition Committee visit to Laganas Bay on 7 – 9 November 2003 highlighted in their 10-12-03 report to the Commission that “It was clear from our visit, conversations and pictures seen that the provisions of the EC Directive are not being complied with...” At the same time the Greek Authorities issued a “short term timetable for the adoption of the remaining actions” in order to comply with the ECJ Judgement of 30th January 2002.
- Visits to both the old Greek government and the new one by EC Officials took place between October 30th 2003 and 11th May 2004 to discuss and follow up Greece’s non-implementation cases regarding EC Environmental Directives including the case of Zakynthos.
- In December 2003 the EC informed the Greek government that if Greece did not comply with the EC requirements, they would not refrain from taking the necessary steps for taking the case again to the ECJ for financial penalties.
- On 4-5-04 MEDASSET appealed to the European Ombudsman regarding the denial of access to the report by the Greek Official in September 2003 so as to submit detailed evidence, (as it did for the original case against Greece in 1994) to be taken into account by those making the decision of whether the Commission should revert to the ECJ for imposition of punitive financial penalties to Greece.

ZAKYNTHOS NATIONAL MARINE PARK (ZNMP) FROM MARCH TO 20TH SEPTEMBER 2004

- The new 11 member Management Committee for the ZNMP, defined by the revised Presidential Decree (27-11-2003), is packed with government and local authority representatives, local hotel owners, bed & breakfast operators, and farmers. Only one environmental NGO representative is allowed, and even then must be approved by the Minister of the Environment. Hardly a vote that will make much difference to the running of the Park!
- There are gaps in the legal framework setting up the Greek National Parks and their management structure. They are given no legal authority to enforce the laws governing the Parks and can only report infractions to the various local authorities who show little inclination to enforce the environmental laws embodied in the Presidential Decree setting up the Parks, or the National laws controlling development or protecting the environment. Furthermore there is a lack of long term commitment by the State to ensure the viability of National Parks Management bodies, including the creation of administrative structures to enable the Ministry of the Environment to support the Parks.

March 2004

- Although the Greek government continued to announce agreed funding for the ZNMP, the Management Body of the Park revealed that of €200,000 allocated, the government only paid the Park €37,000 in the whole of 2003. As a result the full time staff of the Park were not paid for the previous 8 months, and the 2003 seasonal beach guards had only received 50% of their earnings.
- As early as 28-5-03 the “Citizens Initiative group of Zakynthos” launched a complaint to the local authorities and to the ZNMP against the development company “Alkionides Village” for earthworks, landscaping and opening of roads within the boundaries of the ZNMP. No action was taken. By March 2004 without any reference to the Park authority, but apparently with a permit from the local administration, construction of a huge 80 unit holiday village was commenced by “Alkionides Village” and proceeded to roof level, before a temporary injunction could be obtained from the Courts by the ZNMP. In May 2004 the injunction was lifted and construction is now almost complete.
- Two quarries on Skopos Mountain above the nesting beaches, within the boundaries of the ZNMP, have expanded to the point that they impinge on the skyline (See photo).
- Despite the fact that funds are available, plans to relocate the obsolete biological treatment plant on Mount Skopos above the nesting beaches, have been shelved for two years until a new site can be found, its overflow continuing to pollute Laganas Bay.

May 2004

- As a result of not having been paid, the ZNMP went on strike. On 2nd May the first 23 charter flights of the season arrived in Zakynthos and sea turtles were massing in Laganas Bay prior to the start of nesting. Due to ZNMP staff withdrawal of labour and to the lack of beach guards total anarchy reigned in the area of the Park with hundreds of uncontrolled summer furniture blocking the nesting beaches, illegal sand lifting from the dunes, dozens of vehicles driving on the beaches, illegal coastal development, all with the consequent degradation of the nesting area.
- The new government’s Deputy Minister of the Environment, answering a question on the ZNMP subject in the Greek Parliament on 20th May, stated that “EC and National programmes available for the environment were sufficient to cover the financial needs of the park”. What he did not say was that this would depend on Greece paying its 50% share so as to qualify for the EC contribution to the Park’s functioning. He said “the lack of money to pay ZNMP dues is mainly due to the fact that the Operational Programme Environment co funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) functioned at an extremely slow pace”. He stated that, “The ZNMP authority should look to bringing a balance between local people’s reactions and turtle protection”. He failed to mention that to stop the reaction, landowners affected by development restrictions of the Park should be compensated, which is not as he claimed the “job of the ZNMP”, but of the government.
 He also said “apart from expecting funds from the Operational Programme ‘Environment’, they should also look for alternative funding solutions for the Park, e.g. to the ‘LIFE Nature’ and ‘Interact 3’ programmes”. He did not mention that an existing LIFE Nature project in Zakynthos is frozen due to the fact that the government is withholding its share of funds to make it operational!
 If the first National Park Management Agency in Greece was to suffer so at the hands of the State, with its lack of both political will and financial support, what hope is there for the other 27 Park Management Agencies in Greece?
- A very well researched whole page illustrated article entitled “Turtles Losers in Olympic Fund Run” was published in the Greek (English language) “Athens News” on Friday 21st May. It commented, “...with its curiously mismatched triple bill of responsibilities, the Ministry of Environment, Public Works and Urban Planning does have a lot on its pre-Olympics plate – it is

responsible for 40% of the venue constructions as well as all the roadworks around Attica.” The article continues with “...it’s not that they don’t want to help,” says a Commission source who visited the ZNMP last summer, “We have been putting pressure on the Ministry to act and the Deputy Minister is very positive about helping the Park – he said it was a top priority. But he doesn’t control the budget, and as far as I understand, all the money goes to the Olympics now.”

June 2004

- MEDASSET started a campaign by launching several Press releases to the Greek and International press on 22-6-04, an Open Letter to the EC Commissioner for the Environment, a signature petition campaign in association with the German NGO “EURONATUR”, consisting of a letter to the Prime Minister of Greece about the 27 Greek National Parks and the ZNMP. Several thousand signatures were collected.

July – August 2004

- Two Euro MPs visited Greece in an attempt to persuade the Greek Authorities to take steps about Zakynthos, and a written Parliamentary Question to the EC was asked in August. WWF International and “ARCHELON” The Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece followed our campaign with petitions to sign and by reporting to the EC Commissioner for the Environment about the situation at the ZNMP.
- A documentary prepared with help and advice from MEDASSET showing the horrific conditions on the Premier Mediterranean nesting beaches of the loggerhead turtle at the dysfunctional ZNMP, was shown on the UK BBC2 programme “Countryfile” on August 15th. This followed a radio interview and broadcast on the BBC TV World Service from which feedback was even received from as far away as from a boat in mid-Atlantic!
- An article in the UK “Observer on Sunday” newspaper on 1-8-04 commented on the sea turtle situation there. Articles also appeared in the UK “Daily Telegraph” (8-7-04), the German “Der Tagesspiegel” (18-7-04), “Berliner Zeitung” (11-7-04), “Hannoversche Allgemeine” (5-8-04), “Die Rheinpfalz” (21-8-04) and “The International Herald Tribune” featured a Reuters Report (1-7-04). Several articles appeared in the Greek press including the English language “Athens News”, and there were interviews on National Radio.

September 2004

- On September 15th the Greek government received a document from the European Commission asking to be updated by September 22nd about where implementation to comply with European Court of Justice resolution about Zakynthos of 31-1-02 was standing. The document refers to several complaints received for non-implementation of ECJ judgement having been received from citizens and Euro MPs during the summer period of 2004. Greece to reply by September 22nd otherwise infringement procedure again by EC to ECJ that could end up by Greece being inflicted an important penalty.
- On September 21st a letter and an information update about the non-functioning ZNMP was sent by MEDASSET to the 62 Euro MP members of the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety at the European Parliament.

THE LAND

E. LAGANAS AND KALAMAKI

- 1- The sewage system of Laganas Town covering Laganas Bay (co-funded by the EC in 1999) continues to malfunction, polluting the sea in the Bay for tourists and turtles alike.
- 2- The sand dunes of E. Laganas and Kalamaki have been accumulating garbage since last cleaned in 2003, and were used for dumping garbage before the summer season began. They were not cleaned throughout 2004 nesting/hatching season
- 3- Garbage bins are overflowing with plastic bottles, bags etc. Garbage is not only washed ashore from the sea, but is being dropped by beach users to such an extent that it is not uncommon for nesting turtles to crawl over it, dig it up whilst trying to nest, and burying it in their nests which may prove to be death traps to emerging hatchlings.
- 4- The three information poster signs about the turtles and the ZNMP have been knocked down or disappeared from the beach (See photo.)
- 5- In 2000 there were still 15 nests laid in front of the Louis Zante Beach Hotel in E. Laganas, 8 in 2001, 4 in 2002, and none in 2003 or 2004. The hotel promotes well lit musical swimming pool parties every night through the early hours of the morning, next to the nesting beach, and hundreds of items of recreational beach furniture are left on the beach at night.
- 6- Horse riding on the beach and in the sand dunes started in March and carried on throughout September.
- 7- Stock cars and the new "Rage" in Zakynthos, beach buggies raced along the nesting beaches throughout winter 2003 up to June 2004, turning the beaches into hard packed roadways.
- 8- As the ZNMP employees were on strike, having not been paid since August 2003 the Park remained non-functioning throughout the 2004 nesting/hatching season and no beach guards were employed. The control barriers for access points to the beach through the sand dunes, especially at night remained locked away in the ZNMP building. Throughout the summer many people aiming to see turtles nesting, frequented the beach during prohibited hours every night, often with vehicles and flashlights, disturbing the nesting turtles, resulting in many turtles returned to the sea without nesting. The inaction of the ZNMP has been an utter disaster.
- 9- ARCHELON (STPS) foreign volunteers were regularly being told by locals, "Go back where you came from. The ZNMP is finished. The beaches are ours again now".
- 10- Hunting was quite openly resumed in the sand dunes areas without regard to its illegality.
- 11- More of the little remaining sand dune areas were bulldozed during the winter and early spring to accommodate more summer furniture and for construction purposes. (See photos)
- 12- The mobile cafeteria last seen illegally parked above the nesting beach near the Crystal Palace Hotel in 2002, was once again in place throughout the summer.
- 13- Sunbeds on the nesting beaches were not removed or stacked at night resulting in an increase of non-nesting turtle emergences.
- 14- Markers placed on the beaches by the ARCHELON (Sea Turtles Protection Society of Greece) volunteers to indicate nests were removed by beach visitors. The volunteers in Kalamaki doing fieldwork were physically assaulted on several occasions by local summer furniture operators. The police were informed but nothing was done. A UK BBC2 cameraman was harassed and pushed by a beach furniture operator whilst trying to film a documentary on Kalamaki beach in July.
- 15- Stray dogs freely roam the beaches.
- 16- Eye witness accounts report cruelty and harassment of the turtles on the beaches of Kalamaki and E. Laganas, including local turtle spotting boat operators catching basking turtles from the water and holding them up for tourists to photograph. One turtle spotting boat operator was seen to reverse his engines under power to back up to a basking turtle grab it over the stern to show to tourist passengers.
- 17- On all Laganas Bay beaches (Except Sekania, owned by WWF), hundreds of commercial beach recreational furniture, pedal boats, canoes, small boats etc. remained throughout the nesting and hatching seasons. (See photo)

In summer 2004 there was a total of 450 umbrellas and 930 sun chairs on the nesting beaches of E. Laganas and Kalamaki against three times the permitted amount of 150 umbrellas and 300 sun chairs, as defined by the Presidential Decree setting up the ZNMP. Dozens of pedal boats, canoes, small engine boats completed the picture. The overwhelming majority (90%) of these were not removed or stacked at night, including the pedal boats etc.

SEKANIA 2004

- 1- The impact of over-nesting on this 400 metre most densely nested loggerhead beach in the world, cannot be assessed because there is no access to official comparative nesting data collected in Laganas Bay over the past 21 years! It is now estimated that of the 800 nests laid yearly in the entire Bay, about 56% take place in Sekania. Turtles due to lack of space often excavate their nests' over existing nests thus destroying them.
- 2- As there were no information signs and no wardens on Sekania beach this year, on several occasions visitors were seen on this strictly protected beach where (by law) no visitors are allowed.
- 3- Throughout the summer several sea turtles nesting in Sekania had evidence of recent boat propeller damage or fisheries interaction. Some severe and bleeding with chops into their shells or missing flippers or paralysed limbs either from boat propellers or cut off by fishermen after becoming entangled in their nets.
- 4- In August pedal boats were accessing Sekania beach, and a fishing boat was seen fishing off the west part of Sekania on several evenings. The sea area around Sekania is totally protected by ZNMP law which totally prohibits all boats.

DAPHNE 2004

- 1- Daphne continues to be totally out of control as far as illegal construction and sea turtle conservation is concerned.
- 2- Existing illegal roads leading to the nesting beach after being covered in gravel, mud and rocks following the winter rains were restored, improved and enlarged in June (See photo).
- 3- Illegal tavernas, small hotels, bars etc operated until late at night throughout the nesting/hatching season.
- 4- One parking area above the beach was doubled in size, and a new one on the beach was constructed in June. We counted 80 cars in the car parks and with others parked around the area an estimated total of 150 cars on 25th August 2004. (See photo).
- 5- All 13 illegal buildings designated by law to be demolished several years ago, remain along the beach. A new one started in winter 2002, was completed and enlarged; Improvements were made and an illegal wall was built next to it in June 2004, without any action by the authorities. In summer 2004 we recorded 39 instances of illegal construction (including the 13 old buildings) throughout Daphne. (See photo.)
- 6- One of the existing illegal bars in the centre of Daphne beach was completely refurbished and enlarged in May 2004.
- 7- Seven wooden walkways to the sea remain in place limiting sea turtle access to the nesting area.
- 8- During winter 2003 through March 2004 go-cart and beach buggy races were held on Daphne nesting beach compacting the sand.
- 9- Daphne beach was not cleaned for the nesting season and remained full of rubbish, during winter 2003.
- 10- In June 2004 tons of rocks were brought to the nesting beach and were placed along the beach in order to divide "private" from "public" land. The boundaries of "private" land were pushed by 5m, hence reducing the sea turtle nesting area by this amount. The rocks extend across the length of the nesting beach rendering a large portion of the beach inaccessible to the turtles. The rock barrier was covered with sand. Turtles trying to dig their nests in the area are thwarted by buried rocks.

On one occasion out of 34 turtles trying to nest in that area only one managed to successfully do so!

- 11- Turtles somehow manage to nest by climbing over a low wall recently constructed on the nesting beach. Hatchlings from nests located behind the wall are disorientated by the array of artificial lights at the back of the beach and head inland becoming either lost in the vegetation or prey for the dogs and cats.
- 12- During the hatchling period ARCHELON foreign volunteers were physically abused by the owner of "The Bella Mare" illegal tavern, sworn and shouted at by bar owners and had their personal property thrown over the new illegal wall.
- 13- Recreational beach furniture, completely banned in Daphne by law, covers the beach and flattened sand dunes. Approximately 193 umbrellas and 340 sunbeds were seen in August 2004. Half of Daphne's 250m beach was occupied by beach furniture (See photo). All illegal!

GERAKAS 2004

- 1- In September a fire was set in the ZNMP protected area above Gerakas nesting beach. The police declared it was arson.
- 2- A number of people visited the nesting beach at night throughout the summer, some mopeds were seen driving along the beach.
- 3- For the first time summer furniture operators at Gerakas started renting 6 canoes and 2 pedal boats. Gerakas is in the boat exclusion zone. At least 3 private boats were moored overnight in Gerakas in August. The Port Police were informed at least 4 times but failed to respond.
- 4- Metal posts were stuck in the sand 10 metres from the water to block off an area for the tourists. One post narrowly missed a nest.
- 5- From 20th June to September there were about 130 umbrellas and 270 sunbeds on the nesting beach. Only rarely were the sunbeds stacked at night. The Presidential Decree constituting the ZNMP allows 60 umbrellas and 120 sunbeds on Gerakas beach. Over double the permitted amount. (See photo)

MARATHONISI 2004

- 1- In June during full nesting season on Marathonisi Islet two fishermen were seen setting up a 33m long fishing net only 20m from the shoreline, completely blocking turtle access to the nesting beach. They removed it only after ARCHELON (STPS) volunteers reported them to the Port Police but returned to set the net on several occasions since the first incident. On July 5th 2004 a load explosion of dynamite fishing was heard and a boat was seen close to the islet. Several other smaller ones took place later. All fishing activities are banned in Laganas Bay during the nesting and hatching period.
- 2- Anchoring of boats, which is prohibited at the Islet, occurred regularly during the summer. Many boats approached the Islet during the nights.
- 3- Foreign STPS volunteers monitoring nesting activity on the Islet were verbally abused by visiting boat operators who bring hundreds of tourists, a number of times during the summer.

THE SEA 2004

- 1- The patrol boat for Laganas Bay was not seen at all during July. The rest of the summer it was seen only twice. MEDASSET complained to the Portmaster, who explained that due to the Olympics he had not been left enough staff to operate or to patrol the Bay. Port police activity was almost non-existent in Laganas Bay in summer.
- 2- Many Buoys demarcating the protected areas of the Bay were either lost during winter storms or by deliberately cutting the mooring ropes. They were not replaced.
- 3- A pedal boat operator was seen a couple of times in September setting fishing nets from his pedaloe about 20m off the E. Laganas nesting beach. Investigation by a snorkeler revealed 8 hatchlings trapped in the net. Three were already dead. The incident was reported to the Police.
- 4- Dynamite fishing was reported on several occasions in the Bay, and the Port police were informed but no immediate action was taken.

- 5- Throughout the summer, boats of all kinds up to large yachts used the prohibited areas of the Bay, especially at weekends, some mooring for 2 – 5 days brightly lit during the nights. In most cases the Port police were informed but no action was taken.
- 6- Speedboats operated at full speed throughout the Bay from May to October, which could explain why so many turtles on nesting beaches were seen with severe bleeding wounds from the propeller interaction, some losing flippers.
- 7- Seven turtles were known to have been washed ashore dead stranded. One was alive with deep cuts in its shell by speedboat propeller and sent to the STPS recuperation centre near Athens. One otherwise healthy male proved to have drowned after entanglement with a pedal boat buoy rope.
- 8- Throughout the summer snorkelers were observed holding on to turtles in the sea. Several turtle spotting boats gathered at the same time around basking turtles in clear contravention of the agreement they signed with the ZNMP in 2003.

CONCLUSION

No national or local government authority showed the slightest interest in enforcing environmental law in Laganas Bay for the whole of 2004 to date.

THE EC SHOULD PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY TO APPLY TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE FOR PUNITIVE FINANCIAL PENALTIES AGAINST GREECE IN LINE WITH THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE JUDGEMENT OF JANUARY 2002, AND THEIR LETTER TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IN 2003.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION AND TECHNICAL REPORTS PRESENTED BY MEDASSET TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS (BERN CONVENTION) AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, PUBLISHED UNDER T-PVS REFERENCE:

ZAKYNTHOS (GREECE)

Updated reports prepared from 1984 and published as T-PVS since 1993:

T-PVS (93) 32: L. Venizelos, MEDASSET: Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos, Laganas Bay, Greece, 5 July-16 August 1993, 10 pages.

T-PVS (95) 63: MEDASSET (*L.Venizelos*): Specific Sites, *Caretta caretta*, in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos (Greece), 3 pages. (*Follow-up report and recommendations*).

T-PVS (96) 86: MEDASSET (*L.Venizelos*): *Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos (Greece), 5 pages. (*Follow-up report and recommendations*).

T-PVS (97) 46: L. Venizelos, MEDASSET Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos (Laganas Bay), Greece, 5 pages. (*Follow-up report and recommendations*).

T-PVS (98) 48: MEDASSET: Specific Sites, Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos Laganas Bay, Greece, 10 pages. (*Update report and recommendations*).

T-PVS (99) 70: MEDASSET: Specific Site, *Caretta caretta* in Zakynthos (Laganas Bay, Greece), pp. 2-14. (*Update report and recommendations*).

T-PVS (2000) 58: MEDASSET: *Caretta caretta* in Zakynthos (Greece), 8 pages. (*Update report and recommendations*).

T-PVS (2001) 71: MEDASSET: Update Report on Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos (Laganas Bay) Greece, 19 pages.

T-PVS/Files (2002) 15: MEDASSET: Update Report on Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos, Laganas Bay (Greece), 21 pages.

T-PVS/Files (2003) 13: MEDASSET. Update Report on Marine Turtle Conservation in Zakynthos (Laganas Bay), Greece. 19 pages

ADDENDUM 1.
ZAKYNTHOS, Greece



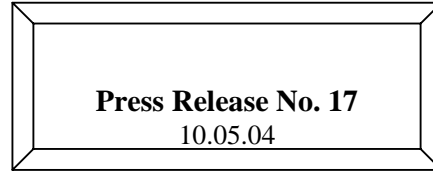
ZAKYNTHOS NATIONAL MARINE PARK STAFF: NO PAY FOR 8 MONTHS!

- Although the Greek government continue to announce agreed funding for the Zakynthos National Marine Park, the Management Agency of the Park have revealed that of 200,000 Euros allocated, the government only paid the Park 37,000 Euros in the whole of 2003. As a result the full time staff of the Park **have not been paid for the past 8 months**, and the 2003 seasonal beach guards **have only received 50% of their earnings!**
- Two quarries operating within the boundaries of the Park continue to expand, destroying the skyline of Scopos mountain.
- The obsolete biological waste treatment plant above the nesting beaches continues to pollute the sea.
- Without any reference to the Park Authority, but apparently with a permit from the local administration, construction of a huge holiday village by “Alkyonides Villages AXTEE” within the Park was commenced and proceeded to roof level, before a temporary injunction could be obtained from the Courts.
Sadly, experience tells us that the above constructions will eventually be completed!
- A new illegal building has been started close to Daphne nesting beach.
- The new 11 member Management Committee for the ZNMP, set up by the revised Presidential Decree, is packed with government and local authority representatives, local hotel owners, bed & breakfast operators, and farmers. Only one environmental NGO representative is allowed, and even then he must be approved by the Minister of the Environment. Hardly a vote that will make much difference to the running of the Park!

MEDASSET

ADDENDUM 2.

ZAKYNTHOS, Greece



IN GREECE, IT'S: FORGET THE TURTLES... SAVE THE OLYMPICS!!!

As a withdrawal of labour by the Zakynthos National Marine Park (ZNMP) staff enters its second week, they are still owed 10 months salaries. On 2nd May the first 23 charter flights of the season arrived in Zakynthos and sea turtles are massing in Laganas Bay prior to the start of nesting in a few days Total anarchy reigns in the area of the Park with uncontrolled summer furniture blocking the beaches, illegal sand lifting from the dunes, dozens of vehicles driving on the beaches, illegal coastal development, all with the consequent degradation of the nesting area.

An appeal by the developer of a huge holiday village being built in the Park against the wishes of the Park Management Agency has had an injunction lifted, and construction is almost complete. The motto on Zakynthos at the moment is: **"We can now do what we like!"**

The obsolete biological treatment plant is to remain in operation, polluting Laganas Bay, until a new site can be agreed upon.

While an EC report states that "substantial progress has been made....towards protection of the sea turtles", a European Parliament report states "it was clear from our visit, conversations and pictures seen that the provisions of the EC Directive are not being complied with..."

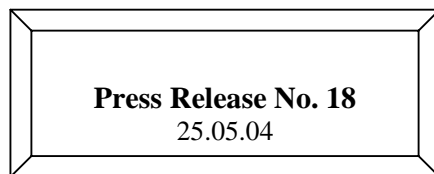
Not only has the State withheld allocated funding for the Park but they have also withheld funds for the Park's EC LIFE-Nature project! If the first National Park Management Agency in Greece is to suffer so at the hands of the State, with its lack of both political will and financial support, what hope is there for the other 27 Park Management Agencies in Greece?

A smear campaign against the Park Management Agency as to its financial probity has been launched by the Park's opponents, despite an official audit.

Meanwhile the European Court of Justice "Sword of Damocles" hangs over the head of Greece as the EC delays making a decision to revert to the European Court of Justice for the imposition of punitive financial penalties. Today the Head of the EC Legal implementation and enforcement unit is visiting the Greek Government. We sincerely hope that political expediency will not override justice, and that the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) can be persuaded that the ZNMP should receive secure funding and sufficient legal powers to ensure that it can achieve its objectives.

As for the MoE, they say that they are far too busy with the Olympics to find time to discuss the problems of the ZNMP! Sadly, by the time the Olympics are over the degradation of one of the most important loggerhead nesting areas in the Mediterranean may be irreversible.

MEDASSET

ADDENDUM 3.**ZAKYNTHOS, Greece****GREEK OLYMPICS AT LOGGERHEADS WITH SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION.**

While the staff of the Zakynthos National Marine Park (ZNMP) in Greece enter the 4th week of their withdrawal of labour, having not been paid since August 2003, the Deputy Minister of the Environment, Stavros Kalogiannis, answering a question on the subject in the Greek Parliament on the 20th May 2004, stated that *“EC and National programme funds available for the environment are sufficient to cover the financial needs of the ZNMP”*. What he didn’t say was that this would depend on Greece paying its 50% share so as to qualify for EC contribution. He said *“the lack of money to pay the ZNMP expenses is mainly due to the fact that the Greek Ministry agencies responsible for the processing of the Operational Programme ‘Environment’ (co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund, ERDF) functions at an extremely slow pace”*.

He went on to state *“The ZNMP authority should look into bringing a balance between local people’s reactions and turtle protection”*. He failed to mention that to stop the reaction, landowners affected by development restrictions of the Park should be compensated, which is not as he claimed the job of the ZNMP but of the Government.

He said *“apart from expecting funds from the Operational Programme ‘Environment’, they should also look for alternative funding solutions for the Park, e.g. to the ‘LIFE Nature’ and ‘Interact 3’ programmes”*. He did not mention that an existing ‘LIFE Nature’ project in Zakynthos is currently frozen due to the fact that the Government is withholding its share of funds to make it operational!

A very well researched full page illustrated article by Cordelia Madden entitled ‘TURTLES LOSERS IN OLYMPIC FUND RUN?’ was published in ‘Athens News’ on Friday 21st May. It comments, *‘with its curiously mismatched triple bill of responsibilities, the Ministry of Environment, Public Works and Urban Planning does have a lot on its pre-Olympics plate - It is responsible for 40% of the venue constructions as well as all the road-works around Attica’*.

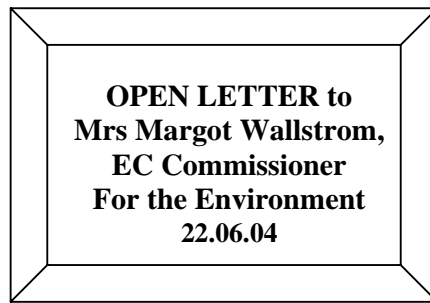
The article continues with: *“It’s not that they don’t want to help,”* says a commission source that visited the ZNMP last summer. *“We have been putting pressure on the Ministry to act, and [Deputy Minister] Stavros Kalogiannis is very positive about helping the Park – he said it was top priority. But he doesn’t control the budget, and as far as I understand, all the money goes to the Olympics now”*.

The Author’s questions addressed to the Ministry of the Environment remain unanswered!

To read the full English text of the article please visit the Athens News website at **www.athensnews.gr**

MEDASSET

ADDENDUM 4.



Dear Mrs. Wallstrom,

REF: ANARCHY REIGNS AT THE ZAKYNTHOS NATIONAL MARINE PARK (ZNMP) IN GREECE

As more disturbing news arrives from ZNMP, we are powerless, unable to stop the major ecological disaster that is currently taking place in Laganas Bay, internationally recognised as the main Loggerhead turtle nesting area of the Mediterranean. All of this during the first few weeks of the nesting season.

The Park's staff remain unpaid in the eighth week of their withdrawal of labour. It is now ten months since they were last paid. Now extreme violations of the Park regulations are occurring endangering the very turtles meant to be protected.

This week's report from Zakynthos states:

- Barriers to block beach access at night are locked away in the ZNMP office. Many people frequent the beaches during prohibited hours of the night, often with vehicles and flashlights, disturbing the nesting turtles. Due to this disturbance, many turtles return to the sea without nesting.
- On Marathonissi Islet two fishermen were seen setting up a 33m-long fishing net, only 20m from the shoreline, completely blocking turtle access to the nesting beach. They removed it only after Archelon (STPS) volunteers reported them to the Port Police. They are expected to keep trying.
- So far, three dead loggerhead turtles have washed ashore, one a perfectly healthy male showing clear evidence of entanglement by the buoy line of a pedalo boat.
- There are eyewitness accounts of cruelty to the turtles on the beaches of East Laganas and Kalamaki. Often locals grab them from the water and wave them about in the air to show to tourists. One turtle spotting boat sped towards a turtle, backed the engine towards it and grabbed it for show.
- Bags of garbage in Sekania, collected during an Archelon (STPS) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) clean-up effort, were not removed from the beach for two weeks, obstructing the turtles from nesting.
- It was announced in the local press (12/6/04) that the obsolete biological treatment plant above the nesting beaches, will not be refurbished to operate for another two years as previously announced, but will remain and in operation in its present condition throughout the nesting and hatching season, continuing to pollute the bay for turtles and beach-goers alike.
- It is also reported in the local press that the head of the Land Planning Office has confirmed that there are many illegal blocks of beach furniture in Kalamaki and East Laganas.
- Sand extraction has resumed behind the nesting beaches of Kalamaki.
- Archelon (STPS) foreign volunteers are being told by locals, "Go back where you came from. The ZNMP is finished. The beaches are ours again now."

Attached are a series of photographs documenting some of the latest illegal activities on the nesting beaches of Laganas Bay. The pictures were taken at dawn because the photographer was afraid of being attacked by locals as has often happened before.

It is clear that the provisions of the European Commission Directive are not being implemented or even considered by the Greek State. Turmoil and chaos reign in Laganas Bay, as the list of ZNMP violations continues to lengthen.

So much for Zakynthos being a refuge and sanctuary for the endangered Mediterranean sea turtles.

Sincerely,

Lily Venizelos,

President MEDASSET

ADDENDUM 5.

**ATHENS NEWS , 21/05/2004, page: A09
Article code: C13067A091**

Turtles losers in Olympic fund run?

Lack of cash has closed the Zakynthos National Marine Park, which provides protection for the endangered caretta caretta. With the start of the nesting season coinciding with the first of the charter planes, profit-driven anarchy rules in the creatures' key remaining Mediterranean habitat

CORDELIA MADDEN

IN THE costly scramble to ready Athens for the August Olympics, the effort to save the endangered loggerhead turtle from extinction seems to have been forgotten. By the time the Games are over and cash is freed up for this project, conservationists say the last remaining stronghold of loggerhead turtles in the Mediterranean may have been lost.

At the start of the caretta caretta turtles' nesting period, the Zakynthos National Marine Park (ZNMP) is unstaffed, with the personnel on strike for not having received their salaries for over eight months. The ZNMP was established in 1999 to provide protection for the sea turtles that since antiquity have been laying their eggs in the beaches of Zakynthos' Laganas Bay. In the same year, European Court proceedings were started against Greece for failing to implement national and European laws concerning the preservation of the sea turtle.

Without any park wardens on patrol, chaos reigns on the coastline as profit-hungry locals take advantage of the lack of authority. "The situation has already resulted in illegal sand-taking, vehicles on the nesting beaches, a proliferation of sunbeds and umbrellas on the beaches, and uncontrolled illegal building," says Ioannis Pantis, president of the ZNMP since 2001 and professor in the ecology department of Thessaloniki's Aristotelio University.

The timing couldn't have been worse. "As the first charter flights of the season arrive on Zakynthos and sea turtles mass in Laganas Bay [for the] start of the nesting season [which began on May 15], total anarchy reigns in the area of the park," says Lily Venizelos, founder of the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (Medasset).

The costs of the ZNMP are paid by the ministry of environment, public works and urban planning. But, says Harikleia Minotou, the WWF representative in the management body of the ZNMP, "the ministry has not given us the [financial] support that's needed: we don't have enough to cover the expenses of the park and the employees are unpaid for more than eight months." Pantis agrees: "Our costs were not met sufficiently by the state." According to Medasset, in 2003 the ministry of environment only provided the ZNMP with 37,000 euros out of the agreed annual amount of 200,000 euros.

Pantis adds that the state did not live up to its obligations regarding the LIFE-Environment project either. According to this scheme, the European Commission provides half the money for an ecological programme and the ministry of environment of the country concerned gives the other 50 percent. The commission has given its share of the funding towards the ZNMP, an agreed 2001-2004 LIFE-Environment project, while the Greek ministry has only provided one-third of the amount it is required to pay.

No money left for ecology

"The ministry of environment says it is far too busy with the Olympics to find time to discuss the problems of the ZNMP," says Venizelos of Medasset.

Certainly, what with its curiously mismatched triple bill of responsibilities, the ministry of environment, public works and urban planning does have a lot on its pre-Olympics plate - it is responsible for some 40 percent of the venue constructions as well as all the roadworks around Attica.

It's not that they don't want to help, says a commission source who visited the ZNMP last summer. "We have been putting pressure on the ministry to act, and [Deputy Minister] Stavros Kalogiannis is very positive about helping the park - he said it was a top priority. But he doesn't control the budget, and as far as I understand, all the money goes to the Olympics now."

The ministry of environment did not respond to *Athens News* questions in time for this article.

The problem, says the commission source, is that unless the ministry acts to give funding and credibility to the ZNMP soon, Greece risks being taken to the European Court again. In January 2002, the court ruled that Greece had failed to fulfil its obligations concerning the protection of sea turtles under Article 12 (1) (b) and (d) of Directive 92/43/EEC. Athens was ordered to take all the necessary measures to comply with the legislation and pay court costs.

"If the court ruling of January 2002 is not adhered to, if there is no surveillance of the nesting beaches this year, if there's no protection of turtles and everyone does what they want on the beaches, when the EU Commission visits this summer we will have to send a letter of reasoned opinion to the Greek government. The case will then most likely go to court again and there will be a daily penalty to pay," the source explains. "It's much better to pay the ZNMP's costs now than to pay more later."

The commission believes that, until now, there had been much progress on the habitat preservation, with surveillance on the nesting beaches and a legal framework and the management body established.

The only major sticking point, according to the commission, remains the compensation of landowners on the controversial Daphne beach, where illegal construction still continues apace and what ecologists describe as a state of war exists between the locals and park wardens.

'Getting away with murder'

Venizelos of Medasset, however, says that even before the work stoppage at the ZNMP legislation was not being complied with. In its annual report to the Council of Europe (sent to the Standing Committee at the end of last summer), Medasset details problems with illegal building all over Laganas Bay - a huge holiday resort called Alkyonides Villages is currently being constructed partly within the limits of the marine park.

There is also an issue with sewage: Medasset reports that not only does the biological waste treatment plant above the nesting beaches continue to pollute the sea, but that Laganas Bay is full of excrement from the malfunctioning village sewage system. In addition, summer furniture blocks the beaches, vehicles drive on the sand and the tourist 'sea turtle-spotting' boats consistently fail to comply with ZNMP guidelines.

"The authorities don't give a damn - everyone's trying to 'get away with murder'," says Venizelos. "We have found aborted eggs in front of the Louis Zante Beach Hotel in east Laganas - turtles only abort their eggs when conditions on shore are such that it is impossible for them to nest. Up to two years ago, around 12 nests per season were laid in front of the hotel; last summer there was not a single one."

"In addition," she says, "we have a loss of eggs on Sekania beach [an inaccessible bay that was purchased by WWF in 1994 for the undisturbed nesting of turtles]. As they cannot lay their eggs elsewhere owing to overdevelopment and obstacles on the remaining beaches, over 50 percent of the turtles now nest on Sekania; on average, there are around 700 nests per season in less than 400m of nesting sandy beach, which means that they are re-excavating and destroying each others' nests and eggs."

"It is one of the worst ecological scandals in Europe," she concludes. "By the time the Olympics are over and the ministry finds time to discuss the problems on Zakynthos, the degradation of the most important loggerhead nesting area in the Mediterranean may be irreversible."

ADDENDUM 6.

ATHENS NEWS , 02/07/2004, page: A09
Article code: C13073A091

MEPs urge Greece to save turtles of Zakynthos by **CORDELIA MADDEN**

TWO MEMBERS of the European Parliament have arrived in Greece in an attempt to persuade authorities to take steps to save the endangered *Caretta caretta* turtles of Zakynthos. Alarmed by reports of increasing anarchy on the Zakynthian beaches during peak nesting season following a nine-week (and counting) work stoppage by unpaid staff at the Zakynthos National Marine Park (ZNMP), Irish Green party MEP Nuala Ahern and German MEP Irene Soltwedel came to Athens to urge the environment ministry to take urgent action.

Speaking exclusively to the *Athens News*, Ahern said on July 1, "It's a crucial moment, and something must be done immediately. We believe that the new government can find solutions to the problems, but this nesting season will be lost unless guards are put back on the beaches right now."

The two - who came at the suggestion of the German NGO Euronatur and the Athens-based Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (Medasset) - met Deputy Environment Minister Stavros Kalogiannis on the morning of July 1. "We asked him to act with all speed," said Ahern. "He was very positive, and I have to believe that he will act to protect the nests this summer."

"Many members of the European Parliament from all political groups are very concerned about the situation," she continued. "And we will all be watching to see what steps the ministry will take."

The beach wardens of the ZNMP are on strike, having not received their salaries since last June. The ZNMP was established in 1999 to provide protection for the sea turtles that since antiquity have been laying their eggs in the beaches of Zakynthos' Laganas Bay. In the same year, European court proceedings were started against Greece for failing to implement national and European laws concerning the preservation of the sea turtle.

As a result of the park closure, chaos reigns on the coastline as profit-hungry locals take advantage of the lack of authority to litter the beaches day and night with sunbeds and umbrellas, to remove sand illegally from the soft dunes in which the turtles lay their eggs and to drive along the nesting beaches. There has also been a proliferation of illegal building. Laganas Bay is the last remaining stronghold of loggerhead turtles in the Mediterranean, but the increasing disturbances on its nesting beaches have already resulted in aborted eggs and a significant reduction in the number of nests.

Ahern and Soltwedel will be visiting Greece again in autumn to monitor the situation. However, if the ministry does not make a move now to fund the park and establish a management body, the degradation of the most important nesting area in the Mediterranean may be irreversible.

* Medasset and Euronatur have started an international signature collection campaign requesting that the authorities guarantee yearly funding for all twenty-five National Parks in Greece and provide them with the currently absent legal authority to enforce conservation laws within their boundaries. If you would like to sign, go to http://www.medasset.gr/english_petition.htm

ADDENDUM 7.**The Observer****Sex antics of UK tourists scare turtles to death**

First it was Rhodes, now drunken British holidaymakers are running riot on the beaches of another Greek island

Mark Townsend in Zakynthos

Sunday August 1, 2004

They have outlived dinosaurs, surviving 100 million years of climate change and catastrophic asteroid impacts. Yet Europe's largest refuge for the rare loggerhead turtle faces its gravest threat: the drunken British tourist.

Record numbers of young UK holidaymakers are invading the nesting grounds of the endangered creatures on the Greek island of Zakynthos, where they are blamed for wreaking havoc among one of the turtle's last havens.

Vast stretches of Laganas beach have already been abandoned by turtles this summer as a record 200,000 Britons head to the lively resort nearby.

It is not only the turtles who are feeling the pressure from the invasion: locals fear that the once sleepy town could become a magnet for louts in Greece, saying that evenings are now already punctuated by outbreaks of fighting and lewd behaviour.

Holidaymakers admit to being lured by the promise of cheap alcohol and attractions such as 'the dentist chair' - to which drinkers are strapped and encouraged to swallow a litre of spirits and mixers. The beach and its loggerhead nesting areas often become the venue for breeding of an altogether more modern kind as couples wander from the bars which close at 4am. At dawn a small army of beachcombers are required to clean the detritus of glass, cigarette butts and condoms.

Despite the souvenir shops of Laganas offering a range of cuddly toy turtles, the latest generation of young hedonists appears oblivious to the creatures' plight or even where the nesting grounds are found. 'No one told us about them,' said Rachel, 21, from Manchester. 'And we've been on the beach every night since we came here.'

Most young Britons are simply in Laganas looking for sex. Stacey from Manchester had racked up two conquests in five days and was in the process of courting a third. 'You've got to buy me a drink and promise to undress me,' she winked at her latest suitor, Gary from Norfolk, and added: 'It'll take quicker than you think.' She whirled round and touched her toes. Gary blinked hard. She was wearing no underwear.

Big Phil was there for 'the fish bowl' - an £18 vat of scarlet-coloured spirits - as well as sex and the odd scrap. Later he would be seen fighting after failing to snare a partner for the night. Not getting laid in Laganas is not an option for men like Big Phil.

For Frank, though, such unimagined abstinence was fast becoming reality. Four nights had passed without so much as a kiss and he was sporting a shirt the 22-year-old hoped he would never need wear. 'I just want sex,' it pleaded. In earlier, more optimistic times, the insurance salesman had invested £20 in condoms, top-of-the-range Durex Avanti.

Others were faring better. Inside the Ghetto club, Watford Paul was celebrating his birthday and looking for a threesome to mark his 23 years. Most though seemed satisfied with one conquest at a time. Of a group of 19 lads from Plumstead, London, 17 had woken with company after five nights on the pretty Greek island. Elsewhere, the appetite for sexual shenanigans of nine of 11 blokes from Leeds had been similarly sated. 'They love the passion,' boomed Dennis from West Yorkshire.

Laganas has become one of the hippest destinations for young Britons, displacing former favourites such as Magaluf, Ibiza and Faliraki. The latter in particular has suffered following a crackdown by the Rhodes authorities after last year's drunken debauchery reached an ugly finale with the fatal nightclub stabbing of Paddy Doran, 17.

Dave Smithson, spokesman for Club 18-30, confirmed that bookings for Laganas have reached record levels with a quarter increase on last summer. By contrast, demand for Faliraki has fallen 70 per cent.

Each week thousands of Britons arrive on a flight path that sweeps directly above the loggerheads' nesting grounds, the airport being a 10-minute drive from where the turtles try to lay their eggs. However, protesters have forced the authorities to ban night flights throughout the nesting season from May to October. It is a rare concession, lament environmentalists, who point to a controversial decision by the Greek government to close a marine park that protected the nesting ground from intrusion.

Laws safeguarding the species are being broken with impunity, claim conservationists. Residents of Zakynthos believe that funding for the park, which would cost £350,000 to set up, has been diverted to the Olympic Games.

Where 24-hour wardens once protected vital nesting grounds, holidaymakers are free to storm the loggerhead's habitat. Cars and motorbikes have been reported careering by moonlight on the nesting areas, smashing soft eggs buried beneath the sand.

Pregnant turtles, too petrified by the commotion to wade ashore at night, are being forced to lay their eggs in the sea, where they cannot hatch. Eggs that are successfully laid face a fresh set of obstacles posed by mass tourism.

Hatchlings expecting to be guided by moonlight to the sea are bewildered by the lights and neon-studded bars of the mile-long strip slicing through Laganas. Disorientated, the creatures crawl towards the lights and die in the sand.

Volunteers, including several Britons, are attempting to patrol the nesting grounds but remain powerless to stop drunken tourists encroaching on eggs or diving into the sea, ensuring the notoriously nervous loggerheads are deterred from coming ashore.

Last year more than 1,200 nests were recorded in Laganas Bay, around half what is thought to have been noted this year. Environmentalists now warn that the turtles could disappear from the area if tourism is not controlled.

Underpinning the problem is the natural vulnerability of the species: as few as one in 1,000 hatchlings reaches maturity, while eggs may have to incubate on crowded beaches for up to 70 days.

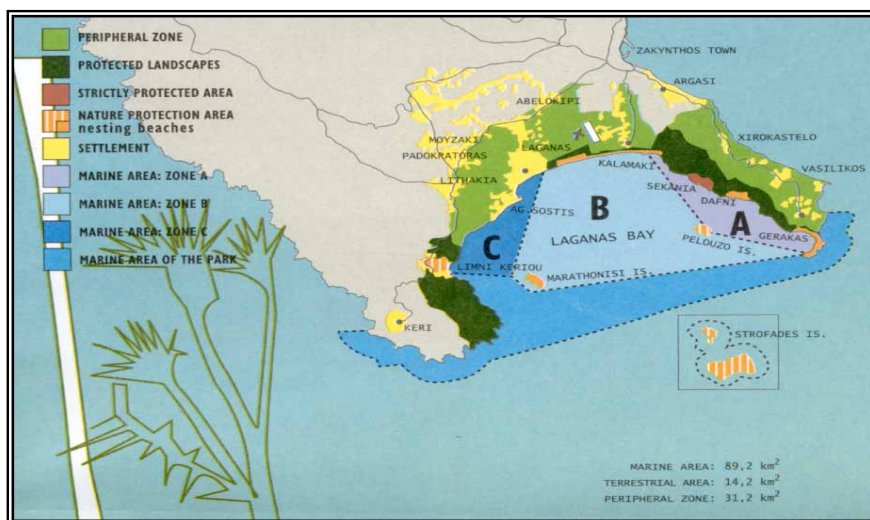


Fig. 1: Zakynthos National Marine Park Map (Source: ZNMP)

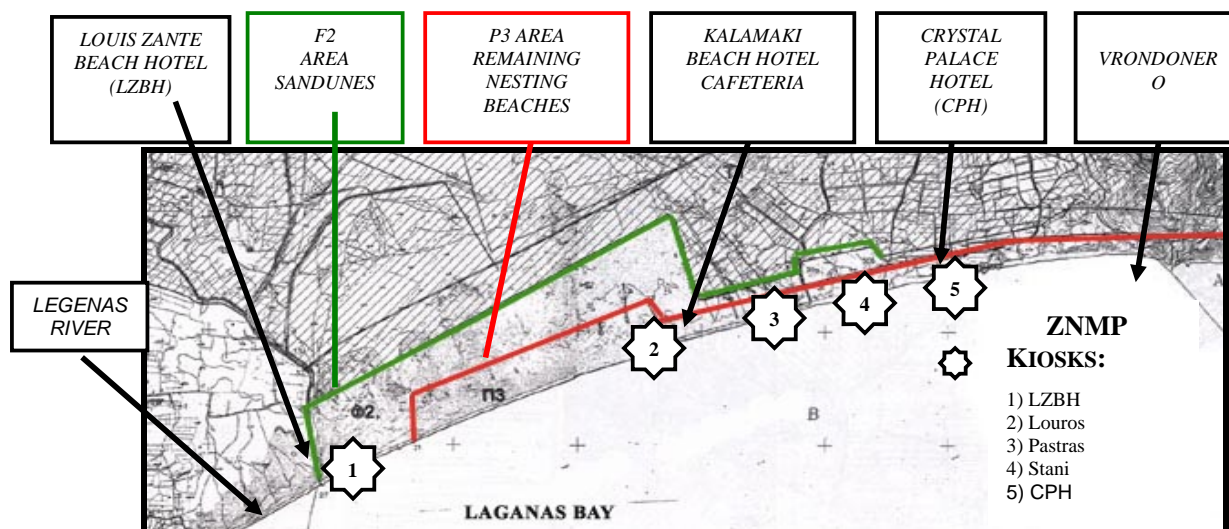


Fig. 2: Map of E. Laganas and Kalamaki nesting beaches (scale: 1:5000).



Photo 1: July 2004: Enlarged old car park (2003) and new car park right on the beach in Daphni. New illegal building was completed in June 2004. The two illegal roads to the beach have been improved. © 2004 MEDASSET

Photo 2.

May 2004: Sand mining continues on the few remaining sand dunes behind the nesting beaches of Kalamaki (area 2).
© 2004 MEDASSET



Photo 3.

May 2004: Stock car racing and 'buggies' along the nesting beaches of E. Laganas (area 1) and Kalamaki (area 2 and 3) throughout winter 2003 to June 2004.
© 2004 MEDASSET



Photo 4. July 2004: Huof illegal beachfront recreational furniture, pedal-boats, canoes etc all remaining *in situ* at night, litter Kalamaki (area 3) nesting beaches. © 2004 MEDASSET

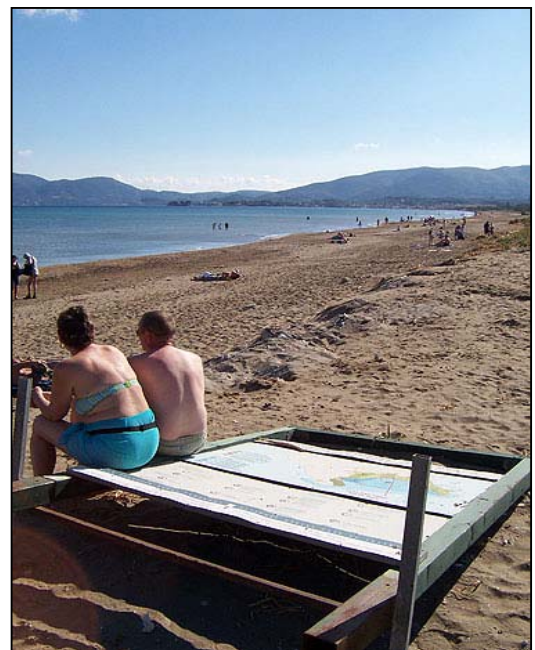


Photo 5. May 2004: One of three ZNMP information signs that have been knocked down or have disappeared from the nesting beaches of Kalamaki (area 3). © 2004 MEDASSET

Photo 6. July 2004:
More sand dunes at the top of Kalamaki (area 3) nesting beaches have been bulldozed and flattened to accommodate further illegal commercial beachfront furniture.
© 2004MEDASSET

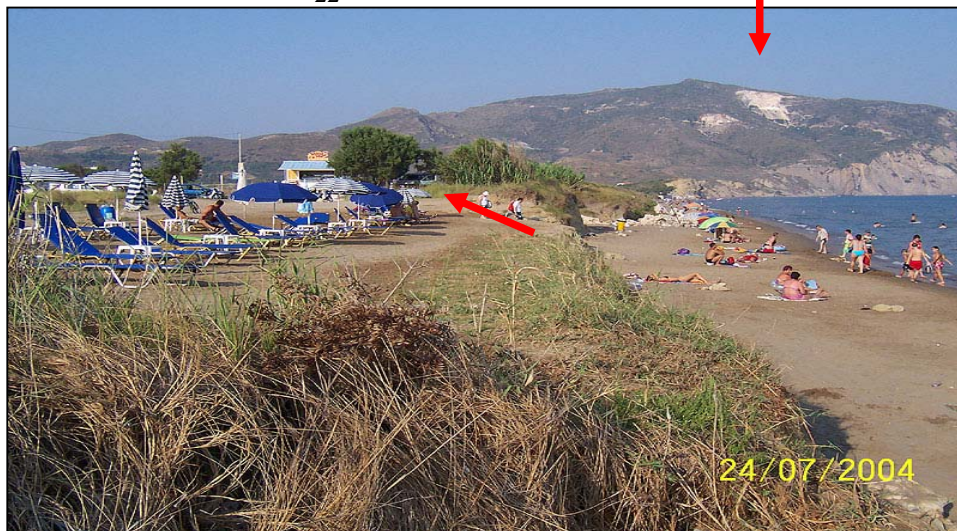


Photo 7. July 2004:
In Kalamaki (area 4) Some turtles managed to nest between a forest of recreational summer furniture that remain on the nesting beach at night, and another illegal wall that blocks nesting of the turtles. Nests have been covered for protection against beach goers.
© 2004 MEDASSET

Photo 8.
May 2004: As early as May, Gerakas nesting beach was already covered in double the permitted amount of recreational beach front furniture right in the area of heaviest turtle nesting.
© 2004 MEDASSET





Photo 9. July 2004: A characteristic view of Kalamaki (area 3) nesting beach: Bulldozed sand dunes on top of beach to accommodate more summer furniture and to provide car parking. The beach is covered in recreational furniture, pedal-boats, canoes, illegally built wall. No nesting space left for turtles. © 2004 MEDASSET



Photo 10: July 2004: Improvements and enlargement of the illegal road leading to the new (June 2004) car park on the nesting beach of Daphne. Recreational furniture on Daphni beach is not allowed by law. Numbers exceeded the amount of 2003. They are not removed at night. © 2004 MEDASSET